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The CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
VOL. 1.—NO. 3.

LONDON, CANADA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1894.

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ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

From The Monthly Journal.

THE

2 Kopecs Serpentine

PERF, OF BALLYROTSK.

(CONSIDERABLY) AFTER JULES VERNE.

[*We very greatly regret that, owing to the inexorable exigencies of space and expense, we have been obliged greatly to curtail this very interesting story, the original manuscript of which would have produced a three-volume novel. We have felt it necessary to bring it into a few columns of this magazine, and have therefore most reluctantly omitted a vast amount of geographical, ethnological, and other scientific details, which we are sure would have been most interesting to our readers, and reduced it to a mere shadow of its former dimensions. We trust, however, that in thus pruning it we have not diminished its interest, but have, perhaps, by concentration, even added thereto.*—ED.]

The Stamp Bourse of Paris was in a state of emotion closely bordering on excitement. An entirely novel variety had been discovered; not merely a new variety—such are met with every day upon the Bourse—but a variety of a novel kind, hitherto quite unknown to philately.

Now Philately, or the Science of Stamp Collecting—[*We are obliged to omit here a dissertion of several pages upon Philately, or the Science of Stamp Collecting.*—ED.]

This notable discovery emanated, too, from the very highest and most responsible source. It was made by no less a person than the great Mons. Chose, of the firm of Chose, Bonmarche et Cie., well-known as being at the head of the Stamp Trade in Paris, that is in the whole of the civilized world.

The stamp trade, as we all know—[*We have again to omit a detailed account of the Stamp Trade, but considerations of space and expense cannot be disregarded.*—ED.]

The 2 kopecs stamp of the current issue of Ballyrotsk is plentiful in every stamp market. These little pieces of pink paper, disfigured by a design impressed in the poorest manner of lithography, are to be found in every schoolboy's collection; yet here was a variety of it that commanded almost the highest figure on record, a specimen the possession of which was disputed at the price of the king's ransom by the richest collectors in Christendom, a rarity such as the great Mons. Chose himself believed to be possibly unique. Lithography, as all collectors know, even lithography as practised at the primitive printing office of Ballyrotsk, does not produce any very striking varieties, or, at least, none that cannot be easily accounted for.

Lithography, or the art of printing from stone—[*Considerations of space reluctantly compel us to omit a most interesting article upon this subject, copied, we believe, from the "Encyclopædia Britannica."*—ED.]

No; it was plain that the variety which had aroused so much enthusiasm was not one of design. But varieties of design are not the only varieties known to advanced followers of the Science of Philately.—[*Considerations, &c., &c., again oblige us most regretfully to omit the chapter upon varieties of all kinds.*—ED.]

What then was the particular form of variety in question here? Was it of watermark? No; watermarks were quite unknown in Ballyrotsk. Of paper? Well, little variations in the substance or tint of the paper—which was of the commonest and cheapest nature—were only to be expected. No, it was something more interesting than this. It was a variety of the most philatelic nature, a variety of perforation.

The ordinary 2 kopecs, black on *pink*, of the issue of 189—, is, as every philatelist is aware, imperforate, devoid of any nature of perforation even of the most ordinary description. Throughout its long career as a stamp-issuing district, Ballyrotsk had never perforated its stamps. The simple Jugginski,* if ever he used the stamps, tore them roughly asunder; the scientific collector or the careful dealer served them with the scissors. Small wonder then that the discovery of a single perforation specimen should have caused such an excitement in the philatelic world. Had Ballyrotsk indeed adopted at last one of the most advanced improvements of philatelic civilization, or was this the handiwork of the gang of nefarious *fakers*, for which Albion—perfidious in this as in all else—was so justly famed? Surely the answer to one of these must be in the affirmative—but such was not the case, and hence arose the mystery which was troubling all the savants of philately.

The stamp has been received direct from Ballyrotsk by the great firm of Chose, Bonmarche et Cie. in the ordinary course of importation. A single perforated specimen among a quantity of *used* stamps would have been nothing; but these were not *used* stamps. The oldest philatelist in Paris had never seen a used stamp of Ballyrotsk. Either the inhabitants of that district religiously preserved all the used stamps, and would not allow one of them to leave the country or—but the alternative was too monstrous; Ballyrotsk had been issuing stamps for years; it was impossible to believe that all were produced entirely for exportation.

No; the stamp in question had been received direct from the district post-office. It was immaculate, and the original gum was still uninjured upon its reverse. It formed one of a sheet, the usual sheet of fifteen, in three horizontal rows of five, differing from one another only in the greater or less degree of smudginess of the impression. But this one, forming the extreme upper corner of the right hand side of the sheet, differed from all the others, not only on that sheet, but on all other sheets that had ever been seen! On two sides, and these not opposite sides, as is usually the case with partially perforated stamps, but two adjacent sides—the top namely, and the right-hand side—it showed plain traces of a rough kind of a perforation!! Truly a marvellous variety!!!

But, you will ask, of what kind was the perforation? Now the nature of perforation known to philatelists—[*Con, &c., &c., again compel us to consign to the waste paper basket a treatise on perforation, which we are sure, &c., &c.*—ED.]

Which of all these various methods had been employed here? It was a question not easy to answer. The great Dr. Lunettes, the highest known authority upon such a point, had examined the specimen with the most powerful magnifiers. Other only less learned philatelists had studied it also; and Monsieur Chose himself—no mean authority—had subjected it to no mere cursory inspection. With an unanimity almost as surprising as the stamp itself, all these high authorities were agreed upon one point, and that was that this was a species of serpentine perforation; on every other point connected with it they, as was more natural, entirely differed. As to the nature of the machine by which it had been produced, there was the most stormy controversy; the sheet—for the stamp had not yet been removed from it, but still retained the place of honor, the right upper corner—would certainly have been torn in pieces, without the aid either of perforations or scissors had not one of Monsieur Chose's most active assistants rescued it, almost at the risk of his life, and placed this unique variety in the fire and burglar-proof safe. Unique! But was it *unique?* Time alone will determine this.

CHAPTER II.

The zemstro, or district, of Ballyrotsk is one of the smallest and least important in the great Russian Empire. It is shown only on the largest maps. Look a little to the south of the thirty-first parallel of latitude, and some fifty degrees west of St. Petersburg, and you probably will not find it. [*50° west of St. Petersburg is in the Atlantic Ocean. It can't be there!*—ED. *Quite right. Don't I say that you won't find it?*—AUTHOR.]

Situated many thousands of *versts* from any centre of civilization, it was one of those places where the proverb, "Go further, and fare *verse*," would not apply, for it was practically impossible to do either. The Hsirap Licnuoc (the local authority) had long ceased to attempt the collection af taxes, on the principle that it is impossible to extract blood from a stone, and the village post-office was now the sole source of revenue.

The fact that no letters even passed through it, for the simple reason that there was only one person in the district who could write, in no way prevented this department from being a most flourishing one; and the Imperial Government, which claimed a large percentage upon the gross receipts, had granted it all the privileges of first-class postal rates.

The Letajoski* was a man of considerable talent as a financier. In addition to the above important office, he was also the editor and publisher of the local paper—the *Wraggvlatt*—president of the Hsirap Licnuoc, and proprietor of the only printing establishment,

* Peasant of South Central Russia.—*Author.*

* District or sub Postmaster.—*Author.*

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

—THE—

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LONDON, CANADA, JANUARY 18th, 1894.

EDITORIAL.

Mr. W. H. Schmalz, a prominent Berlin collector, called on us recently.

Mr. Kissinger's new philatelic paper *The Stamp Collectors Weekly* has not yet appeared.

The P. S. of A. organized their first branch in Chicago on the 27th of November last, and is progressing favorably.

Mr. Frank S. Kline, of Spring City, Pa., was recently bereaved of his mother. We extend to him our sympathy in his severe affliction.

Mr. A. H. Milligan, a local collector, is again about, after having been confined to the house with a broken leg, for nearly six months.

The P. S. of A. are advertising their first auction sale. No date is set, but we suppose that it will continue indefinitely, or until all the lots are sold!

Recently there was a rumor to the effect that the current issue of Trinidad had been surcharged on H. M. S. We have official information to the effect that no such varieties have been issued or even contemplated.

The *Canadian Philatelist's* special edition which was to appear on Dec. 1st was postponed till Feb. 1st owing to a pressure of business. It will appear promptly, and has a circulation of 8,000 copies. Advertising rates remain unchanged.

The Nebraska Philatelic Society, which was organized in 1892, has made great progress, and is now one of the largest state societies in existence. It has at present 73 members and 8 applications, a good showing for so young an organization.

The eighteenth sale of R. F. Albrecht & Co. took place on Jan. 10th and 11th, and consisted of about 800 lots. We have not yet received a price catalogue so cannot give the results. If the prices are anything like those obtained at the seventeenth sale they will be very low.

Russian local stamps are in demand on the continent where we are told they are collected quite extensively; here, we seldom see, and seldom find a collector who bothers about them. There is no end to the varieties that may be obtained, and European journals chronicle them regularly.

Mr. Dawson A. Vinden, the well-known Australian dealer, has sold out his Australian business and is proceeding to London, England, where he will again enter the ranks of stamp dealers, and rumor has it that he will prove no mean rival to the other large metropolitan dealers.

We have succeeded in securing the services of a talented lady collector as a regular contributor to our columns, and expect her first contribution next week, and regularly thereafter. We are also glad to have secured the services of Mr. Walter A. Withrow, who will supply us with weekly articles.

No exchange advertising can be accepted by this paper. We state this in order to save our brother publishers and dealers making us offers, as some have already done. We conduct this publication on a strictly cash basis, and will not depart therefrom even though we do not secure a single advertisement.

Philately is advancing in new directions in England. At a recent meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society there was a lecture on counterfeits, the types of genuine and counterfeit being thrown on a screen by aid of a magic lantern. It is said that this new departure was well received. It certainly it a novelty.

The Boston Philatelic Society held its annual banquet on December 20th, which affair was a success in every particular. Previous to the banquet the election of officers was held, which resulted as follows:—*President*, W. C. Van Derlip; *Vice-President*, H. E. Woodward; *Treasurer*, L. L. Green; *Secretary*, Howard H. Sanderson.

Leopold, King of Belgium, has just issued a decree to the effect that a special set of stamps shall be issued for the World's Fair, which will be held in Antwerp in 1894. The decree states that the said set of stamps shall have in their design the arms of that city. The designs and values it is expected will be made known at an early date.

We see by a writer in the *Philatelic Era* that Seebeck has raised the price of his remainders in-so-much that two of the leading wholesale dealers have refused to handle them in the future. We sincerely hope that Mr. Seebeck will place his prices still higher so that eventually he will be unable to find any collector or dealer who will handle them.

Our prominent philatelists are apparently not all beyond reproach. We learn that Lieutenant and Quartermaster Thorpe, of the Royal Irish Rifles, who is well-known in philatelical circles, has just been court martialed for the embezzlement of over £2,000, neglect of duty and false reports. The accused was found guilty and sentenced to be cashiered without pension.

A correspondent in Brazil sends us information to the effect that the current 500 reis olive has been changed in color and is now a slate color. The new Journal stamps have appeared and are 200 reis black and 300 reis violet. The present state of affairs in this place makes it doubtful whether the Republic will stand or be succeeded by the re-established monarchy. In the latter case an entire new issue will result.

The new Canadian criminal code provides for a penalty of fourteen years imprisonment on conviction of counterfeiting, using or selling counterfeit stamps of Canada or any other country. Should any case be brought to our notice we shall make every effort to secure the conviction of the guilty parties. If the United States collectors, and those of other countries would cooperate we should soon stop the counterfeiting of stamps.

The quantities and endless list of varieties of Hawaiin stamps of the "Prov. Govt., 1893," which are now being flooded upon the market, leaves little doubt as to their origin. We would advise collectors to leave this trash alone. It is apparently a swindle. The last ship to come in brought the information that all the envelopes and postal cards have been surcharged like the adhesives, and it is quite probable that they will contain scores of different varieties.

The progress of the Philatelic Sons of America has never been equalled by any other Philatelic society. It was organized in August last, and has already nearly 300 members, while in the December issue of the official organ nearly one hundred and seventy-five applications were published. If the applications continue to come in at this rate, it will not take long for the Society to get 1,000 members. We

believe all its departments are in *A1* working order, which is an unusual occurrence among Philatelic societies.

We see by a recent issue of *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* that the ways of the postal officials in Persia are inscrutable. Some time ago the 7 sh. stamps ran short at a certain office, but as 10 sh. stamps were plentiful, the postmaster informed his customers that they must put 10 sh. on their letters instead of 9 sh. (usually made up of 7 sh. and 2 sh.), and as the officials usually take the money and put the stamps on the letters themselves, the senders were forced to an extra charge of 1 sh. per letter.

Doubtless most of our readers were at the World's Columbian Exposition, but few seem aware of the immense quantities of counterfeit stamps that were sold on the ground, especially in the Manufacturers' Building. Here forgeries were openly exposed for sale, at low prices it is true, yet it is to be regretted that some Chicago collectors did not bring the matter before the proper authorities, who would probably have stopped it. The counterfeits were all imitations of the very poorest order, and cancelled. Cape of Good Hope triangulars and Suez Canal were abundant. This trash, we regret to say, has been carried all over the States and Canada.

The quality of philatelic literature in general is improving. The Christmas *Pennsylvania Philatelist* has just been received and consists of 164 pages and cover, 96 pages of which consist of reading matter. Several illustrations are given among which is a plate of 34 American collectors and dealers; a page illustration shows us the three Reading editors of the paper Messrs. Kissinger, Kantner and Fox, or as they call themselves, 'Reading's great three." The articles are numerous, the poetry *abundant*, and the contributors are our best writers. We regret we have not the space at our disposal to give an extensive review of the articles, which are exceptionally fine. Taken all together the Christmas *Pennsylvanian* is a very creditable number.

In our last issue we promised to secure additional information regarding Henry Ades Fowler and his *Canadian Journal of Philately*. He has ceased publishing the paper and has sent his creditors a statement like this: "As *The Canadian Journal of Philately* has suspended publication on Dec 1st, 1893, and you rank as a creditor of the paper its affairs will have to be wound up before a settlement is sent you." Notwithstanding, an advertisement has since appeared in another paper of his, *The International Philatelist*, soliciting subscriptions for this now defunct journal. Subscribers are apt to be out the amount of their subscriptions, $2 00 or $3 00 as the case may be. Should any further information be received our readers will be promptly informed in regard to the developments.

Mr. N. Chas. Sparks.

MR. N. CHAS. SPARKS, whose portrait we present this week, is one of the leading advanced collectors of Canada, he resides at Ottawa, at which place he was born in 1869, and he is consequently about 25 years of age. Mr. Sparks began collecting at a very early age and until recently was a general collector, he now however is a specialist and collects British North American stamps only, of which he has a very fine collection, among which we may mention the shillings of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, used and unused, and an unsevered pair of 7½ pence Canada. Mr. Sparks is at present studying law.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

"What Fools We Mortals Be."

BY W. A. WITHROW.

SMITHTOWN has a Philatelic club. Am I a member? Do I not collect stamps and am I not a resident of the afore said metropolis?

We are seven! There is McKeever, the tailor, who can spin the most impossible of yarns, and of whom we all stand in awe. He has a fine collection, levying as he does upon all of our rarities in payment of our accounts.

Then there is Gauthier, the Frenchman, who *keeps*, literally, meat and sausages. He carries around over three hundred pounds avoirdupois weight, and imports a chair into our club-room expressly for his own use. He makes a specialty of United States stamps, and is in the market for any stamps his collection does not sport, if the owner will take his note in payment, without mortgage or security.

Next comes Rogers who keeps an establishment for the refreshment of the inner man, vulgarly known as a restaurant; and Noble, who carries a line of imitation (warranted) jewelry.

Brown, the druggist, and Rettinger, dealer in boots and shoes, complete the list with the possible exception of your humble servant, who occupies his spare moments in killing time.

Brown brought the *American Philatelic Magazine* to the meeting one evening and read an article from the same for our entertainment. Then he glanced around the room. Every chair was occupied but one. It stood back in the corner, looming up grandly in the uncertain light. It was Gauthiers'!

Then he said: "Gentlemen, I will now read to you an editorial from this magazine, the import of which we might all take to heart. It is entitled 'Hypnotism in Philately.'"

We were all attention at once. McKeever was awakened and we then listened to the excellent remarks made by Prof. F. Brown.

There was a far-away look in our Brown's eyes as he said; "My namesakes ideas are all very well in their way, but is the feat possible? I am of the opinion that it should be demonstrated. Suppose we send to Halifax, No Man's Land, and secure the services of Prof. Jones? I have heard that he is a capital hypnotizer, and our dear friend Gauthier will make a *capital* subject."

Only then did we see the point. In an unprecedented space of time two dollars was collected and a letter was dispatched to Prof. Jones, enclosing the amount, requesting his services the following Friday evening.

We agreed, to promote the success of the experiment, that Gauthier should not be informed of our intentions. Friday evening came, and so did the worthy professor, and also Gauthier.

The professor was palmed of as a visiting philatelist, and he sat and talked with Gauthier for fully five minutes before he could get him under his control. Finally he remarked:

"Now, gentlemen, what are your desires? He is now under my control after a terrific struggle. Such a large body is difficult to subdue."

Noble suggested that it would be a good idea to present him with some oddities in United States stamps, so Brown handed him a cigarette label, and the professor said it was an unperforated twenty-four cent first issue. An angelic smile came over Gauthier's countenance and he scrambled up on the table to thank us for presenting him "a stamp which he had never dreamed of owning."

Then a two cent claret and a two cent gem were temporarily utilized as a twelve and twenty-four cent 1810, grilled issue, and Gauthier was overcome. Tears streamed down his cheeks and his voice took on a pathetic wail as he tried to thank us "for our many kindnesses."

But when McKeever attempted to levy on these varieties, Gauthier's expression quickly changed. "Take away his finest stamps! no indeed!" and it was with difficulty that he was restrained from chastizing our friend, the tailor.

To make a long story short, he was put through every conceivable operation, causing a great quantity of amusement, but finally at eleven o'clock, the professor intimated that he was getting tired and that only another lot of cash would keep him up. At this outbreak we made haste to tell him to let up on Gauthier. He tried to bring him to, but could not in *any* way.

What were we to do? The professor was frightened out of his wits and left for home for might he not be lynched? We were in a quandary.

A council of war was held and many impossible plans were suggested and rejected. Then McKeever said: "Faith and I have it? I've often said Gauthier's sausages were enough to wake the dead, and why not try 'em?"

Happy thought! We did it! A long link was brought in and after one long sniff, Gauthier recovered. Our experiment was an undoubted success but we never tried it more.

The highest price on record (£680) has just been paid for two stamps—namely, a penny red and a two-penny blue of Mauritius of 1847, with the words "Post Office" on the left side. There are only fourteen known copies of this stamp in the world, but they are in collections of the highest repute, such as those of Baron Rothschild, Le Comte de Ferrary, Dr. Legrano, etc., and are not likely to come into the market.

ONE OF MANY.

324 George St., Toronto, Canada, Jan. 8, 1894.
Mr. L. M. Staebler London, Canada:
Dear Sir—I have received a copy of your new weekly, it knocks out all the other weeklies.
Yours truly,
Chas. R. Dippie.

FUNNY DEAD LETTERS.

Queer Collection of Stray Mail at the Capital.

Piece of Frosted Wedding Cake that Missed its Destination.

Strange Things included in Uncle Sam's Museum—Quaint Addresses.

[Washington letter in New York Advertiser.]

ONE of the most interesting places in the Capital city is the museum in the dead letter office. It is full of queer things that have traveled through the mail and at last found a permanent resting place. Whenever it is possible articles that reach the dead letter office owing to failure of the delivery are returned to the sender, but it often happens that not even the sender can be found.

Then the unclaimed article, if it be curious or interesting, is placed on exhibition in the cabinet that lines the walls of the museum. There are pictures and toys and jewelry in profusion.

Several Indian hatchets gave to a section of the cabinet an archæological appearance, and a pair of Indian pipes of red sandstone cross each other in peaceful style. A rare curiosity is a piece of parchment on which is penned the Lord's prayer in 54 languages. It is said to be a duplicate of a parchment which hangs in St. Peter's at Rome.

It came to this country in the mail from Europe in 1842, and, as it was never claimed and its origin could not be traced, it was sent to the dead letter office, where it has been on exhibition ever since. One of the prettiest things in the cabinet is a lady's fan made of stork feathers, the plumes being rarer and richer than the finest ostrich plumes.

It is most magnificent in appearance, and doubtless graced the costume of some court beauty in the old world. It came to this country from Europe many years ago, but no clue to its owner or sender was ever found.

On one of the shelves is a box of wedding cake, which came to the dead letter office 10 years ago as, "unclaimed." It is getting a little old and discolored and would doubtless be pretty dry eating. Considering its present characteristics it might be excellent "wedding cake to dream on." Certainly it has all the elements necessary to produce a fanciful nightmare.

Rosaries are quite common in the cabinet and crucifixes are also plentiful.

Resting in a cornelian case in one corner of the cabinet is a pretty crucifix of solid gold. It was found in one of the southern postoffices at the close of the war and was marked "Unclaimed." It had been sent probably by some pious mother to her son, who perished on the field of battle or in the hospital.

There was no name attached and nothing to tell its story. Near it in an envelope is a lock of dark brown hair. An inscription on the envelope, in a nervous hand, reads: "This contains my hair. Charles Guiteau." It was put into the mails by the murderer of Pres. Garfield without any address, just as it appears in the cabinet.

A few years ago there came to the dead letter office a tin can upon which no address could be found. The can was opened and 16 lively looking rattlesnakes made their escape. There was a stirring scene in the dead letter office for a minute.

Everybody got upon the chairs and tables, and the rattlers were left in full possession of the floor. Finally the snakes were dispatched, and 15 of them were pickled in alcohol. One was missing, though nobody knew it.

One sunny afternoon a few days later a big, sleek looking rattlesnake crawled from among the papers in the chief clerk's desk and unobserved made his way to where a young lady visitor was sitting.

His snakeship slyly crawled to her feet and gracefully winding himself about her slender ankle tightened his folds. The young lady noticed the intrusion, and hastily looking down saw the wily serpent, was horrified and very properly fainted.

The rattlesnake offered no further insult or injury, but fled in alarm. He was killed and artistically incased in a glass jar which now adorns the cabinet.

From one of the cases grins a human skull. It is brown with age, having apparently laid under the clay for a long time before its resurrection and its journey through the mails. There was no address nor postmark when it came. All that it bore was the inscription, "Jimmy McDuff," carved on the frontal bone.

Jimmy McDuff is the name of a murderer who perished on the scaffold out west some years ago, but the skull is not believed to be Jimmy's. Somebody evidently sent it as a joke to some friend acquainted with the circumstances of Jimmy's taking off.

Another exhibit is a negro doll baby black as H. Rider Haggard's African hero Umslopogaas. It was addressed a few years ago to a young society lady in New York by some joking friend, but ascertaining the contents of the package she declined to pay the postage that was due and it came back to the dead letter office.

A huge axe, such as is used by firemen, came in the mails a short time ago and landed in the dead letter office because it was "unmailable" for three reasons: It is sharp pointed, it is overweight and it is oversize.

Axes are not allowed in the mails, though some people seem to think no limit is prescribed. There are persons who would send a threshing machine or a sawmill through the mails if they could only find a postmaster reckless enough to give it a start.

One of the most curious exhibits is a collection of envelopes showing the desperate but futile efforts made by various persons to address them properly. "Pinte rocke, M. D.," is a pretty fair stagger for Point of Rocks, Md., but it takes an expert to determine that "St. Traler, Illonay," is meant for Centralia, Ill. There is not much poetry about "Yummar taller," considering that the writer meant Umatilla, which is in the State of Oregon.

But the sentimental goes all to smash when we realize that a young lady of presumably scholarly attainments wrote "Sarah Garder" for Cerro Gordo, an Illinois town.

A foreigner of the Bulgarian persuasion made a strenuous effort to write "St. Louis." He didn't get it exactly, but when he wrote "St Sokloysx" it was not because he didn't try hard enough. People are sometimes apt to confuse the idea and the name.

One correspondent who had this failing wrote "Rising Sun Colo," for Sunshine, Colo." Another writer addressed a letter to "Rat Trap, Miss," when he should have written Fox Trap, Miss.

He knew it was a trap of some sort, but he was not quite certain as to the kind. One of the envelopes copied and on exhibition indicates that some people are very particular.

The person who addressed a letter to Fred Clark, 3 South Liberty St., Hartford, Conn. wrote "Faird Clark, in the cair of Berry Clark, Hartford, 3 S. Lib. st., Ct., Harf., Co." Fred got the letter, but it was a close call.

One of the Wonders of the Age.

Equatorial Africa, where a half score of great explorers have made themselves famous, is now embraced in the postal union, so that today a letter or newspaper will be carried to the head waters of the Congo for 5 cents.

Some one has calculated that London letter carriers walk, in going their rounds 48,360 miles, or twice the circumference of the earth, every day.

STAMP DEALERS' DIRECTORY

A two or three-line advertisement under this heading $5.00 per year, payable in advance. Extra lines $1.50 each.

BENSON, WM. C. 204 Victoria St., London, Canada. Foreign exchange desired. Send 100 or more stamps of your country and receive same number of Canada and U. S. Fine approval sheets at 40% discount. Reference required. (52)

BOYD, L. B. 469 Colborne St., London, Canada. Foreign correspondence solicited. Send 50 to 200 stamps of your country and receive same number of Canadian. (52)

THIS WEEK'S BARGAIN

Is our Packet No. 4, which contains 100 varieties of stamps from Ecuador, Roumania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Tunis, Argentine, Gibraltar, Spain, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Chili, India, etc. This is our bargain for this week, and it is far superior to any 100 variety packet ever offered by any dealer; sent post paid to any place in U. S. or Canada for **28 cents.** Address—

WM. C. BENSON, 204 Victoria St., London, Can.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS.

We have on hand an **unsevered** pair of the U.S. 1887 2c. green, **unperforated**, with fine margins, on part of original letter. These Stamps are very rare in this condition, and will be sent on approval to responsible parties. They are a bargain at the price, which is only **$20.00.**

L. M. STAEBLER,

185½ Dundas Street, - LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

OUR WEEKLY BARGAIN LIST.

We invite your attention to the following list of Special Offers, which are entirely changed each week.

**Means unused. Postage extra on orders under $1.00. Orders under 25 cents are respectfully declined. Comparison of our prices with those of other dealers requested.*

*New Brunswick, 1, 2, 5, 10, 12½ and 17c.	$1 00
New Brunswick, 3d. red, on original letter	2 50
Nova Scotia, 1c. black	40
Nova Scotia, 2c. mauve	35
Nova Scotia, 5c. blue	16
Nova Scotia, 3d. blue, a very fine specimen on original letter	1 50
Newfoundland, 8 varieties	20
United States, 1857, 1c. blue	10
United States, 1857, 10c. green	20
United States, 1893, 15c. green	14
Angola, 1886, 50 and 100 reis	15
Puttialla State, 5 varieties	15
Argentine Republic, 12 varieties	15
Brazil, 13 fine varieties	15
Bulgaria, 10 varieties	15
Canada, 1857, ½d. pink	1 50
Canada, 1858, 3d. red, on original letter	1 75
Canada, 1852, 3d. red	18
Canada, 1852, 6d., very fine	3 50
Canada, 1859, 1c. pink and 5c. vermilion	6
Canada, 1868, ½c. to 15c., 7 varieties, complete	45
Canada, 1882-90, 6 varieties	6
Canada Registration, 8c. blue	1 25
*Canada Officially Sealed, brown	1 50
Canada, 1893, 8c.	2
*Nicaragua, 1869-71, 5 varieties	25
*Nicaragua, 1878, 5 varieties	35
British North Borneo, 1887, 3, 5, 8 and 10c.	30
Guadaloupe, 1891, provisionals, 3 varieties	10
*Samoa, 1st issue, 8 varieties, complete	10
*Ecuador, 1881-87, 7 varieties	10
*Paraguay, 1893, 1 and 2c.	6
Selangor, 1892, 1 and 2c.	6
Portugal, 1892, 25, 80 and 100 reis	5
*Heligoland, 21 varieties	25
*Honduras, 1st issue, 2 varieties, complete	10
Quebec Registration, green, 3 varieties, complete	35
Canada Weight and Measure stamp, $2 black	20
*Prince Edward Island, 12c mauve	10
Newfoundland, 1868, 1c. lilac	10
Canada Postage and Revenue, 50 varieties	1 00
U. S. Postage, Revenues and Locals, 100 varieties	1 00
Jamaica, 10 fine varieties, including Officials	15

L. M. STAEBLER,

185½ DUNDAS STREET,

London, - - - Canada.